

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 3-7 and 9-14 were non-elected and have now been amended. Claim 4 is canceled.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A composition for well cementing comprising:
 - i. a pumpable slurry of cement,
 - ii. water and
 - iii. a material having residual water-absorption properties after the setting of the cement, so that said material is susceptible to swell in contact with underground water in case of failure of the cement matrix;
wherein the super-absorbent polymer is added to the slurry dry-blended with the cement.
2. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said material is a super-absorbent polymer.
3. (currently amended) The cement ~~system~~composition of claim 1, wherein the super-absorbent polymer is selected from the list consisting of polymethacrylate and polyacrylamide or a non-soluble acrylic polymers.
4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) The cement ~~composition~~system of claim 2, wherein the super-absorbent polymer is added at a concentration between 0.05% and 3.2% by weight of cement.
6. (currently amended) The cement ~~composition~~system of claim 2 further comprising a salt.
7. (currently amended) The cement ~~composition~~system of claim 6, wherein said salt is sodium chloride or calcium chloride.

8. (currently amended) The cement ~~composition~~slurry of claim 2, wherein the super-absorbent polymer is added under the form of particles ranging from 10 μ m to 1500 μ m.
9. (currently amended) The cement ~~composition~~system of claim 1, whereby the material is provided in a capsule that releases the material in response to exposure of the cement to at least one downhole parameter.
10. (currently amended) The cement ~~composition~~system of claim 1, whereby the material is provided in a capsule that releases the material when the cement matrix cracks.
11. (currently amended) The cement ~~composition~~system of claim 1 further comprising at least one additive selected from the ~~list-group~~list consisting of dispersing agent, fluid loss control agent, set retarder, set accelerator and anti-foaming agent.
12. (currently amended) The cement ~~composition~~system of claim 2 whereby the material is provided in a capsule that releases the material in response to exposure of the cement to at least one downhole parameter.
13. (currently amended) The cement ~~composition~~system of claim 2 whereby the material is provided in a capsule that releases the material when the cement matrix cracks.
14. (currently amended) The cement ~~composition~~system of claim 2 further comprising at least one additive selected from the ~~list-group~~list consisting of dispersing agent, fluid loss control agent, set retarder, set accelerator and anti-foaming agent.